



OSCILLATOR

Volume 25 Number 3

THE HOBBY IS GROWING AGAIN — Maybe!

Ham radio is growing again — or is it? Amateur Radio Newsline's reported recently that there were some numbers that the ham radio industry will be glad to hear in these hard economic times. According to a census on the QRZ Super Site, as of January 15th, there are now 720,194 Amateur Radio Licenses in the United States. Of these, 99,470 are Extra Class, 88,982 hold the legacy Advanced Class, 142,723 are now General Class, 95,174 hold the legacy Technician Plus, an unbelievable 241,179 are code-free Technicians while only 52,666 are left holding the legacy Novice class.

Fred Maia W5YI says, "Wait!" The FCC database is a database of all amateurs who have been licensed for twelve years. That is ten years for the license term and an additional two. The reason it stays in the database for the additional two is so that it can be renewed during the grace period.

See HAM NUMBERS, Page 3

Next Meeting — Wednesday, March 13th at 7 PM

Did CW die for ham radio when license restructuring took place? FISTS would answer, "NO!" Carl Blanchard N7CVB will present an interesting program about FISTS! Come and learn how CW lives. Come at 6:00 pm and enjoy the no-host Elks' Buffet line.



From the Bridge, H. D. Landers, WA0BRU

A Captain's duties sometimes will include notifying family in case of an emergency or illness. It is a difficult responsibility.

On February 5th Phil Teck N7OY our Vice President was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital ICU in critical condition. He had Flu-like symptoms that had escalated into Pneumonia. The complications related to Diabetes generated an elevated blood sugar level. Acidosis lead to kidney shut down. Phil's prognosis was not good.

Julie KD7GQW the club's health & welfare coordinator and I began to notify club members and friends that May needed assistance. Organizations form friendships like extended family. BRIDGE, Page 3

March 2002

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**Phil
Teck

N7OY

SK**

HAMS ASKED TO HELP NANOSAT PROJECT, Jeremy Boot, G4NJH

Ham radio is being asked to provide technical support for an upcoming satellite project. It is a bird called Nanosat.

John Heath G7HIA, the Secretary of the National Space Centre Amateur Radio Society, reports that Bristol University is asking the world-wide amateur radio community to assist with data capture from their forthcoming Nano Satellite Project.

To be hand-launched from the Space Shuttle during a space walk, the 6.5-kilogram satellite will send data that can be decoded with software available free from their web site. The software is not yet written because the university wants to give amateurs the chance to have input into how they would like the data stream: 1200 baud AX25 packet, 9K6 packet, Bell 202, or Soundcard etc.

More information and an on-line survey form is available on the web at www.handsat.co.uk. If you decide to participate, be sure to report your experience here in *The Oscillator*.

AMSAT PROPOSES LOW EARTH ORBIT MICROSAT, AMSAT

Imagine getting up in the morning, picking up your dual-band H-T and calling a friend half way around the world by ham radio satellite. Its a pipe dream right now but in a few short years it could be reality if AMSAT North America has it way.

Just imagine a space-based multi-channel repeater, flying in orbit. Hams on earth could access it easily, then talk back and forth on dedicated channels in the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. This could eliminate the need for most of our earth bound relay stations.

A ham at home in North Carolina could talk to another stuck in traffic in Los Angeles. Whenever the bird is flying over this part of the world, we could have instant, clear communication going up on one channel and coming back on another.

It's a gleam in the eye of AMSAT North America Board of Directors at the moment. But this proposal was approved by them recently and when AMSAT tackles such a project it has a remarkable record of making things happen as proposed.

AMSAT says the microsat would be powered using high efficiency solar cells. In addition to the repeater, it will carry one or more experimental modes of transmission: modes not yet determined.

The big question is how long will it take to get this proposed satellite designed, built, and launched. This proposal illustrates the technical adventures that highlight the possible future of ham radio.

Such projects seem far ahead of our current technology. However, hams have led the way in the development of effective communication systems.

Have you considered how you will activate your satellite station with today's satellites. Several are actually pretty easy to hear and access.

Ham Numbers, from Page 1

Therefore, the licenses in the database are two years more than the ten year term or twenty percent inflated. According to Fred, as of January 15th 2002 there are actually only 98,030 holders of the Extra class license, 86,425 legacy Advanced, 138,546 Generals, 318,603 Technicians and legacy Tech plus and only 39,972 Novice class. The total is 681,576. That is considerably lower than the 720,194 in the latest QRZ census and 10,424 lower than the adjusted 692,000 we believe to be accurate.

California has more hams than any other place. The Golden State represents over 15 percent of the nation's total with 109,374 of its citizens licensed as Radio Amateurs. There has been some dramatic growth in Texas which has unseated Florida as the Second place leader with 6.23 percent. Florida is in third place with 5.99 percent. Forth place goes to New York State with 4.76 percent with another growing state -- Ohio breathing at its boots with 4.43 percent.

The bottom line. Once you take away the expired licenses that are in their grace renewal period, the club and military recreation stations and the like the numbers tell a different story. One that is not nearly as rosy as Amateur Radio Newsline and others thought.

[This report was compiled from various sources. Our thanks to Amateur Radio Newsline for the basic data]

BRIDGE, from page 1

Everyday inquiries came seeking word on Phil and May.

Leo KC7SGL and Peggy KC7SGM relayed on the nets our updates of Phil's condition. Helen W7OLF helped to keep people updated on the 146.960 repeater. People responded with well wishes, prayers, and offers of assistance for Phil and May. Phil passed away on Monday, February 18th. Services were held on February 25th. It is very gratifying to see our club come together for a fellow member in difficult times.

We still remain underway to our goals for the Monthly Meetings, SEAPAC, Field Day, and other activities in which we are involved as a club. We continue in support of club members who serve our communities. SEAPAC needs volunteers for committee work. We are looking for more people to work with arrangements and implementation of Field Day. There are numerous walks and bike rides that need communicators. OTVARC club members have always answered the call for help in community projects and public service events. I know in the military service it was good advice not volunteer for anything, but that was the service. Volunteering with OTVARC has its own rewards.

I encourage all to become radio active. Become involved on the air and meet someone. Form new friendships. You will find that to be a reward in itself.

I hear about husbands and wives that contact each other, then, he alone, gets on the air to chat with friends. It's a good habit for the spouses to come to club meetings, and get to know each other.

See you at our March 13th meeting at the Beaverton Elks' Club.

Harold D. Landers WABRU

Joel Harrison W5ZN, ARRL First Vice President at SEAPAC

Greg Milnes W7OZ has announced that our Special Guest at SEAPAC this year is **ARRL First Vice President, Joel Harrison W5ZN**, of Judsonia, Arkansas. Each year, Greg invites one or more Officer or Board Member to represent the ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio, at the Northwestern Division Convention.

Joel has served as First Vice President since 1996. He formerly served on the Board of Directors as Delta Division Director. Joel is an avid contester and will be heard on CW and QRP in nearly every national or international contest.

Be sure to have your registration in early and claim the extra ticket in the award of some fine equipment. If you have mislaid your registration materials, be sure to pick up another copy at the Club Meeting on March 13.

HAM RECORD SET AT 24 GHZ, by Amateur Radio Newline

A new distance record is set on a band where even commercial interests are only now starting to tread. And its a group of Australian hams who have set it. Q-News Graham Kemp VK4BB reports that a new Queensland distance record on 24.048.1 GHz USB was established on the morning of Tuesday 08 January over a 72.8 Km path.

Location 1 was at Wellington Point, with VK3ZQB and VK4ZHL portable. Location 2 was at Caloundra, with VK3XPD and VK5DK portable operating. Signal strengths up to 5x5 after initial optimization with typical daytime QSB.

The visiting team are continuing with local propagation experiments. The challenges of building and operating microwave amateur radio equipment are wonderfully rewarding in many ways!

New records are being set nearly every month by hams around the world in the rarified microwave spectrum.

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SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED

The Board of Directors, consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, has declared the office of Vice President vacant. The vacancy is the result the untimely death of Phil Teck N7OY.

Accordingly, a Special Election has been called for April 10, 2002. Members attending the March 13 Members Meeting will have opportunity to place names in nomination. Written nominations must reach the Club via postal box or hand delivery to the Secretary prior to Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 pm.

See SPECIAL ELECTION, page 5

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

4 May 2002

Walk To Cure Diabetes
Diabetes Association
Betty Mickley N7REX
n7rex@teleport.com

LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, March 23, 2002,
join us for a great time as a
part of the LUNCH BUNCH.

All members, non-members,
Family, Friends, Hams from
other clubs are welcome to
participate.

Our Talk in: 146.900 (-.6)

Hope to see everyone there.
Please be sure to put your
name on the phone/email log
if you would like to get a
reminder :-)

Julie Landers 503-646-1546
or E-Mail kd7gqw@aol.com.
Drop Julie a note - or give
her a call - and she will give
you all the details.

TRAVELERS'

There will be no TRAVELERS'
Event in March. The Snow
Birds are not yet back to join
us.

The April TRAVELERS' event
is scheduled to be Bayshore
RV Park and Marina, Netarts
Oregon. Betty Mickley
N7REX is the Wagonmaster.
Call her at 503-642-1284.

FIFTH WEDNESDAY

Our first Fifth Wednesday
Contest for 2002 is in the
logs. Did you join in the fun
on 147.54 MHz. On January
30th? The next opportunity
for Fifth Wednesday fun is on
May 29th. At 8:00 PM PST.

Jim Schaeffer, KB7ADH, will
present awards for January
30th at the Club Meeting,
March 13th.

Remaining dates for Fifth
Wednesday Contests this
year are:

July 31
October 30

Be sure you put these dates
on your calendar and join us.

Complimentary Newsletter Offer

Do you know someone you'd
like to introduce to OTVARC?
We'll send a copy of *The
Oscillator* with a letter of
invitation and application.
Just drop a note to the
Secretary at the Club Postal
Box or email a request to
w7otv@yahoo.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

Everett W6ABM is looking for a US
call book from 1959 - 1965. Can you
help with a look up and photocopy —
or a reasonably priced sale?
W6abm@arrl.net or 503-681-2345.

This space provided as a service to
OTVARC members. Your ad can run in
The Oscillator. Contact the editor at
W6ABM@arrl.net or 503-681-2345.

EXAM News

We held an Exam Session on
February 2nd. Thirteen
candidates tested. Eleven
received upgrades or first
licenses. Our next session is
April 6 at 1:00 pm at Ronler
Acres Fire Station. Other test
dates will be August 3,
October 5, and 7 December
2002. Reimbursement
amount for 2002 is \$10.00
per exam session.

On June 1st, we hold a test
session at SEAPAC. Advance
registration is required by
May 1st. [Limit of 50 persons
sitting for exams].

Contact Carl, WS7L, 503-
629-5796 or ws7l@arrl.net,
to register. For other
opportunities, send an email
request to W7OTV@yahoo.
com.

SPECIAL ELECTION, from page 4

The Secretary will prepare a
ballot for inclusion in the
April issue of THE
OSCILLATOR. Ballots must
be returned via US Mail to
the postal box by
Wednesday, April 10 at 5:00
pm — or at the Members
Meeting on that evening at
7:00 pm.

Ballots will be counted and
the President will declare the
winner during the April 10
meeting.

The Vice President of our
club coordinates program
planning, backs up the
President, and serves as a
member of the Board.

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION REPORT: Greg W7OZ, ARRL NW Director

I hope many of you found the time to go to "Rickreall" for the Hamfest. It was fun and quite a few bargains were found (I bought a used Heath amplifier plus a signed copy of one of Cynthia Wall's newest ham radio adventure books).

Several hams signed up as new members of the ARRL. This is a good idea. Yes, a membership brings you a subscription to QST magazine, but there is so much more involved. Through our efforts we are soon to get some more ham bands...136 and 193 Khz as well as just above 5 Mhz. We are fighting to save our current bands as well as stave off those who would take frequencies from us. We're working on a scientific review of safety issues and on dealing with PRB-1 and CC&R matters.

The ARRL is a collection of about 165,000 amateur radio operators who are fighting for the betterment of our hobby/service. Ask Riley Hollingsworth (FCC enforcer) who is responsible for the FCC getting back into enforcement of the rules and he'll tell you it was the ARRL. It's a shame that more hams don't get around to support our causes. I hope you are or will soon become a proud member of the ARRL. If you sign up through OTVARC and you haven't been a member before or are renewing after a two years or more absence from membership, the Club gets a nice bonus. Since OTVARC is my home club, I try to come there as much as possible. If you don't find me, ask one of our club leaders about the ARRL.

The next hamfest is a big one...at the Western Washington State Fair Grounds in Puyallup. This event, sponsored by Seattle's Mike and Key club is on Saturday, March 9, starting at 9 AM. Need more info? E-mail me at w7oz@arrl.net

Finally I'll say a word about a friend. Phil N7OY/sk. I was shocked to hear he had graduated to silent key status. He was a friend and a good ham. I shall miss him and his constant effort to make better hams of those around him. I think we can all honor his memory by supporting OTVARC and Amateur Radio as he did.

73 and 88 where appropriate...

Greg Milnes, W7OZ
ARRL Northwestern Division Director

CQ VHF TO REAPPEAR IN MAY

CQ VHF magazine will resume publication as a quarterly in the spring of 2002. The magazine had been published monthly from 1996 to 1999. Longtime CQ magazine "VHF-Plus" Editor Joe Lynch, N6CL, will be Editor of the new quarterly. The first issue is due out in May.

Nearly one third of a million Hams in the USA have license privileges primarily permitting operation on frequencies above 50 MHz and a large but undetermined number of HF-licensed Hams regularly operate above 50 MHz. VHF operators at all levels represent the overwhelming majority of active Hams in the USA. However, the prime focus of the current Ham magazines remains HF. More than half of the Ham population in the USA has no publication that specifically addresses its needs and interests except in the most cursory manner. With this in mind, the new version will focus more on meeting the technical needs of experienced VHFers without sacrificing the attention to the newcomer that has always been a hallmark of CQ.

CARL N7CVB PRESENTS "FISTS" March 13th

Carl Blanchard will present "FISTS: What is it?" at the Member Meeting on Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00 pm. FISTS exists to:

- To further the use of CW on the amateur bands.
- To encourage newcomers to the CW mode.
- To engender friendship within the membership.

FISTS was founded by George Longden G3ZQS, and is a well established and recognized CW organization in the world of amateur radio. Founded in 1987, it has a world-wide membership in the thousands and is growing daily.

Carl Blanchard, N7CVB was first licensed as a novice WV6DOC, in 1958. He relicensed as KC7RZA in 1996 and holds N7CVB today. Carl served in the '50s with the United States Navy as a CW operator aboard the USS Frank E. Evans, DD754. He is usually QRP CW on HF bands, and does some all-mode 2 meter work. He is active in leadership of Cascade QRP Club and a member of OTVARC.

Carl holds FISTS #4279. He has served as a Baptist pastor and college professor. He is currently Chaplain at Oregon Health and Sciences University Hospital. He holds the Doctor of Ministry degree. Carl is married to Dorothy they have six adult children and fourteen grandchildren.

Bi-Weekly E-Mail Contest Newsletter Available, ARRL Letter

A new contesting-oriented newsletter will debut Wednesday, March 13. The ARRL Contest Rate Sheet--to be published every other week--will include timely news and items of interest for active and casual testers alike. The Rate Sheet will be available for e-mail delivery free-of-charge to ARRL members. It also will be posted on the ARRL Web site. Members can start signing up now for delivery beginning in Mid-March.

"We're going to start with a simple format," said editor Ward Silver, N0AX. "To keep the newsletter light and tight, we'll rely heavily on summaries and links to Web pages that make available more extensive information." An ARRL Life Member and active tester, Silver, who lives near Seattle, Washington, edits "Contest Corral" in QST. He is also a regular contributor to other QST departments as well as to National Contest Journal (ARRL's bi-monthly magazine for testers). Silver says the Rate Sheet came about partly in response to CQ-Contest reflector discussions of a proposal still under ARRL Board consideration to drop the reporting of contest line scores from QST. "

News items will include reports from the ARRL Contest Branch, announcements about the availability of contest results, changes in contest databases, contest logging software releases, and other news from contributors. "I'll try to include a contest tip or very short technical/technique item in each issue," Silver said. "And I'll slip in a humorous aside now and then, such as the occasional limerick," he said. Silver said he anticipates that the Rate Sheet "will probably morph considerably over the next year or so" in response to readers' preferences and that additions and changes will be made over time as the best use of the newsletter format becomes clearer. Silver invited suggestions for content and organization via e-mail to rate-sheet@arrl.org. ARRL members can subscribe to the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet by logging onto the ARRL Web site as a member, then going to the Member Data Page.

World Amateur Day to Celebrate Technological Innovation, IARU News

World Amateur Radio Day this year will provide an opportunity to reflect on radio amateurs as an important source of innovation in communication technology. Observed each year on April 18, World Amateur Radio Day commemorates the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union in Paris on that date in 1925. The IARU is the worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations representing amateurs in 153 countries.

A century has passed since Marconi spanned the Atlantic and excited the imaginations of the first generation of amateur wireless experimenters. Amateurs were the first to discover and to exploit the remarkable properties of the ionosphere that permit worldwide communication with less power than it takes to illuminate a light bulb.

Amateurs also were the first to make widespread use of single-sideband voice communication to conserve power and precious radio spectrum. Amateurs applied microprocessors to data communication, popularizing packet radio and developing protocols that are now in widespread use in public safety and other services.

As we enter radio's second century, amateurs continue to lead the way in numerous areas. Radio amateurs are the leading developers of new digital techniques for high-frequency (HF) data and text communication. For example, PacTOR combines the strengths of packet radio and the mode known commercially as SITOR to offer reliable and essentially error-free data communication. Disaster relief agencies have adopted it for use from remote locations where no telecommunications infrastructure is available.

PSK31, another amateur innovation, is a user-friendly mode that provides live keyboard-to-keyboard communication at low power levels and where error correction is not a requirement. An implementation of PSK31 using computer sound cards has made this the most popular amateur digital mode in less than two years. Other developers, building on the success of PSK31, are using sound cards to explore a wide range of other digital modes tailored for the challenging HF environment.

Amateurs also are contributing in the arena of software defined radios (SDRs). An outstanding example of a DSP radio designed for experimental use is the DSP-10, a transceiver for the 144-MHz amateur band designed by Bob Larkin, W7PUA, of Corvallis, Oregon. Working with Larkin, a team of amateur software developers is refining a family of programs tailored to explore a wide range of VHF, UHF, and microwave propagation media, including moonbounce and extended-range tropospheric scatter.

The IARU cites these as but a few examples of what is happening in Amateur Service of the 21st century.

In 1981, acting on a proposal by the Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Radio Emissao, the IARU member-society for Brazil, the IARU established World Amateur Radio Day to be observed each April 18. In 1994 the IARU Administrative Council set the third Saturday in September as World Amateur Radio Day, with a theme for each observance. In 2000, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the IARU, the date reverted to the actual anniversary date of April 18.

The IARU is a sector member of the International Telecommunication Union and is the recognized representative of the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services at the ITU.

Club Contact Directory

OTVARC Executive Board

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Trustee	Alvin Carlson	KB7VHI	kb7vhi@arri.net	503-629-5728
Trustee	J.D. Fort	K7JDF	k7jdf@arri.net	503-259-0269
Trustee	Mel Sutton	KB7PVW	kb7pvw@arri.net	503-246-8879

Club Functions

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	John Anderson	KA7BRZ	ka7brz@arri.net	503-452-2459
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	Dee Lynch	K7JRB	deek7jrb@arri.net	541-745-1025
VE Coordinator	Carl Clawson	WS7L	ws7l@arri.net	503-629-5796

Interest Contacts

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QRP	Carl Blanchard	N7CVB	carlblanchard@earthlink.net	503-620-2581
RFI & TVI	Dale Mosby	K7FW	dale@sequent.com	503-640-0217
Satellites	Everett Curry Jr.	W6ABM	w6abm@arri.net	503-681-2345
Tower Ordinances	Greg Milnes	W7OZ	w7oz@arri.net	503-648-6990
Travelers	Betty Mickley	N7REX	n7rex@teleport.com	503-642-1284
VHF/UHF	Arnold Jensen	W7DSA	n7yag@columbia-center.org	503-543-3713

Birthdays for March:

Please join in wishing these folks a "Happy Birthday" in March:

2: JD K7JDF; **5:** Greg W7OZ; **6:** Gene KA7KBH; **7:** Everett W6ABM; **10:** Randy KZ7T; **11:** Warren W7JDT; **12:** Ray K7VDQ; **14:** Jack W7AJJ; **22:** Al W7SIC; **23:** Bob WF7Q; **24:** Ray KB7YVN; **28:** Arch W7ACD

Hamfests And Conventions

9 March 2002

Puyallup Washington
Mike and Key ARC
Michael Dinkelman, N7WA
22222 148th Avenue SE
Kent, WA 98042
425-867-4797 (dy)/253-631-3756(eves)
mwdink@eskimo.com
www.mikeandkey.com

6 - 7 April 2002

Yakima Washington
Washington State Convention
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PO Box 911
Yakima WA 98909
509-965-3379
ka7ljq@arri.net
http://w7aq.ykm.com

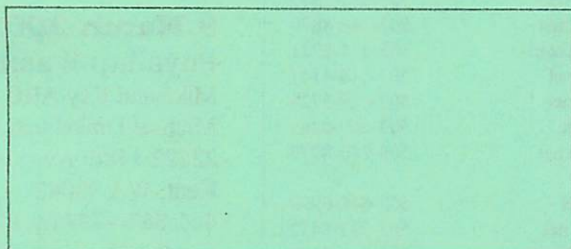
11 May 2002

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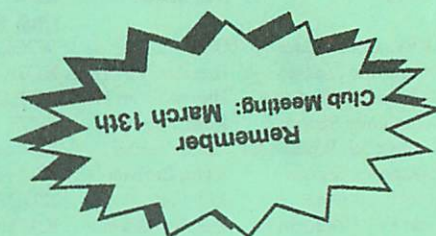


31 May - 2 June 2002

Northwestern Division
Convention - SEAPAC
Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH
503-245-2518
jimschaeffer@sulzerpumps.com
www.seapac.org



email: w7otv@yahoo.com
 Simplex: 147.54 MHz
 Repeater: 440.350 (127.3)
 Repeater: 146.96 MHz
 Web: WWW.OTVARC.ORG



Oregon Tualatin Valley
 Amateur Radio Club
 Post Office Box 5132
 Aloha OR 97006-0132

OTVARC

Club Information

Purpose: The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, a Not-for-profit corporation, wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective and established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Our intent is to promote the advancement of Amateur Radio Service through these five objectives:

1. Education & Training of new and licensed Amateurs.
2. Public Service during community events & activities.
3. Emergency communications in emergencies & disasters.
4. Hobby enhancement through meetings, nets & contests.
5. Social contact with amateurs & other interested persons.

Special Service Club: OTVARC is an ARRL Special Service Club. The ARRL grants us this distinction due to our participation in emergency preparedness exercises, public service events and other service-oriented programs. In addition, continuing educational and training programs are conducted for FCC licenses. OTVARC benefits when you join or renew your membership in the ARRL through the club. Contact the treasurer at any regular meeting.

Newsletter: *The Oscillator* is the club newsletter. It is published monthly and mailed on the first of the month. Opinions, views, and recommendations of its contributors are not necessarily those of the club, its officers, advertisers or the editorial staff. Editor's E-mail: w6abm@arrl.net. The April 2002 *OSCILLATOR* deadline is Tuesday, March 26th.

Internet Home Page: WWW.OTVARC.ORG



Correspondence: All correspondence may be sent to **OTVARC, PO Box 5132, Aloha, OR 97006-0132.**

Meetings: We have two meetings per month. The General meeting is on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Lodge. 3500 SW 104th Ave. (1 block north of Canyon Road). Meetings start at 7 PM. If you would like to come early, you can get a nice meal from the Elks for less than \$7.00. The Board meeting is on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Fire Station 67, 13810 SW Farmington Rd., Beaverton, 7:00 pm. Club business is conducted at this meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Membership: OTVARC is open to anyone who is interested in amateur radio. You do not need to be a licensed radio amateur to join. Dues are: Full member, \$10/yr; Associate member (non-licensed), \$10/yr; Family members of full member, \$5/yr; Life memberships available - see the Treasurer. Only full members and life members may vote on club business and serve as club officers. All memberships expire on the last day of the calendar year. If you would like to join during the year, see the club treasurer for a prorated dues schedule.

How to join: Mail a Membership application and/or renewal form with your dues to the Club address.